

PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 10

As we've been kind of sprinting through the book of Acts, one thing strikes me now like it has several times before in reading this book: the Church just solves problems.

Sometimes we get caught up in the "right" way to solve a particular problem today, and then we think any other way is the "wrong" way to solve that same problem. We find ourselves in arguments and debates and sometimes hostility over which "right" solution is exactly THE "right" solution.

But for the early Church, they don't seem to be as bothered as we are by the simple dichotomy of the "right" or the "wrong" way to solve problems. They ultimately seemed to trust that Jesus would sustain them through all the storms, and then they moved forward. And I'm sure, even though we don't have any official word that they had "committees" as such, we do see they had some designated roles and some particular offices like "deacons" and perhaps "overseers" and "apostles." I highly doubt they had the kinds of job descriptions that we often develop for those roles, but I think we can be certain: there were differences of opinion on the ways to move forward.

We find ourselves in that same space these days as well.

One of the most important pieces of problem solving is at the beginning: correctly naming and identifying the problem itself. In staff meetings we often discuss exactly this. And one thing we try to emphasize is that *people* are not the problem. They may highlight the problem, they may exacerbate it, they may even actively participate in it, but the people themselves are not the problem. People are the church, so the whole thing exists so they can serve the mission of God together. But, sometimes we really get bogged down because we can't mutually identify the problem itself.

Once we've identified the problem, then we can begin to work the problem. And this what the disciples did, over and over again. They recognized the needs of the mission or of the church itself, and they worked on it until it was largely solved.

(continued...)

SOUTH END *fall* FESTIVAL OCTOBER 11 • 3-6 PM

join the fun!

- CARNIVAL GAMES
- TRUNK-OR-TREAT
- FACE PAINTING
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST
- COSTUME CONTESTS
(single, duo or group)
- HOT DOGS, CHIPS & DRINKS
- POPCORN

*Volunteer
Opportunities*
scan here



COMMUNITY WIDE
FAMILY FUN

I think one modern temptation is to blame, to make others the problem, to pull ourselves from any level of error and basically say "well, if so and so would such and such, this would all be solved." Seldom is any problem so simple. Especially in something as complex as a church with hundreds of people and hundreds of expectations and hundreds of experiences that lead to hundreds of misunderstandings. What we can do, though, is choose to treat one another as we'd like to be treated. We can identify issues, and we can decide that we will work together to solve them. This is what we see throughout the book of Acts, and this is what Jesus invites us to today as we continue his work in this world.

Chris Richardson
Lead Pastor

A Message from our Minister of Music

I want to share with you that I have been called to and accepted a new ministry position, that being part-time Minister of Music at Durham Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, where I will begin on October 6. It is my feeling that God has provided this opportunity for me to once again step into the role of leading a music/worship ministry, and I am grateful. That is what this move for me is all about.

As I depart from Pritchard, I fondly reflect on the almost twenty years that I have served here. I have developed wonderful relationships with the congregation, fellow staff members and many others. My working relationship with the various choirs and instrumentalists has been extremely rewarding to me, personally.

I truly hope that the music/worship ministry has helped people worship and learn more about Jesus, and that it will continue to do so.

My prayers are with the Pritchard congregation and staff, that Pritchard will flourish in South End, and make a huge impact for the Kingdom of God.

So Lisa and I say not goodbye, just see ya later!

In Christ's Love, David Bailes

General Church Officers

Zeno Wall has agreed to step in as our Church Moderator to fill an unexpired term through December 31, 2026. Thanks, Zeno!

More Than Conquerors Fundraising Event

October 10 / 8:00am Shotgun Start / Captain's Choice
White Plains Golf Club, Pageland, SC

\$80 per player (includes golf, a cart, a range token, and a meal afterwards). Hole sponsorship \$100, putting contest sponsorship \$500, legacy sponsorship \$500. Silent auction to follow (bid on golf packages +carts at local golf courses and much more!) Contact Gary Huhnerkoch at 612-327-9992.

Monthly Financial Report Summary: AUGUST 2025

2025 ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,541,438

WEEKLY NEEDS TO MEET BUDGET: \$29,643

A copy of the full report is available on request.

	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Revenue	\$139,241	\$894,681
Expenses	\$126,861	\$1,005,601
Net Income	\$12,380	-\$110,920

If you recall the July report, you will see that the August month-end report looks better. We knew that there were contributing factors to July ending with a large deficit. Other months like July and items such as the parking lot income were not what we expected. Unfortunately, we are still behind for the year.

While that is a "downer," an encouragement to me is found in that one of the six income line items, tithes and offerings, is \$33,904 ahead of last year at this time. Unlike line items like parking lot income, the tithes and offerings line is a reflection of generosity in the hearts of the people of Pritchard. My prayer is that God will honor this generous spirit and will provide in ways that bless us and Himself.

In my last article, I shared that giving is an essential part of our walk with Jesus. When we give, we are expressing that we have put God first in our lives and we are giving thanks to Him. God gives us time, energy, and resources (money). What we do with these gifts ultimately defines the character of our life and the depth of our spiritual understanding. I shared that transformation is the result of us letting God have increasing amounts of control over what we do with all the things He gives.

I am convinced that one of Satan's lies is this: if you can't give "X" amount, God isn't going to be happy with you, so you might as well not give anything. That, my friend, is a lie from the pits of hell. God doesn't need your money. God, however, does want you to be transformed into the person He wants you to be, and He uses the sacrificial giving of money to do that. Why money? He uses money because He knows how important money is to us, and He knows that if we will "put our money where our mouth is" and worship Him by trusting him in the area of finances, He will use the giving of that "offering" as part of the transformative work He wants to accomplish.

You have likely heard our pastor talk about the fact that God wants to do transformational work in all of us. Part of His work involves the area of finances. (I'm sorry, but we see it repeatedly in scripture. There's just no way around it.) Would you trust him with \$5, \$25, \$100?

If you want to read a really cool story about transformation, read Luke 19:1-10, juxtaposing it with Luke 18:18-23. One man gained more than he could fathom by being generous with what is temporary. The other man settled for the temporary to forfeit eternal riches.

Saved to Serve, *Rusty Thomaston*

New to Pritchard?

If you are a new member or considering joining Pritchard Church, this class is for you! Beginning Sunday, October 5, you'll learn the 4 main pillars of belief at Pritchard, meet some of our ministerial staff and deacons, and build connections with others on the same journey. We'll meet right after worship service in the Williams Center Lounge (3rd floor). Lunch will be provided. Registration can be found on Church Center or in the weekly Pritchard Connect.

Sweet Spirits

Join us Wednesday, October 8 at 11:00am for a delightful time as we delve into the scriptures together. Menu includes white bean chicken chili, salad, cornbread and chocolate chip cookie bars. Register by **Friday, October 3**, for a fee of **\$10**; after this date, the cost will increase to **\$12**. Registration can be found on Church Center or in the weekly Pritchard Connect.

All On the Table

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 12! This month's discussion topic is 'Inspiration of Scripture'. Discussion and communion is from 5:00-6:00pm with dinner to follow. Doors will open at 4:45pm. Childcare will be available from 4:45-6:00pm for infants through 5th graders. Registration can be found on Church Center or in the weekly Pritchard Connect.

Facilities Forward: Discovery Dinner

Join us for an evening of dinner and discovery with our Facilities Forward team on Wednesday, October 22 from 6:00-7:30pm! Hear directly about the team's goals, their "why," and one possible vision for our facilities as we continue to grow and advance the Kingdom in South End. The Facilities Forward team is actively researching and exploring options for the future, and this is a unique opportunity to gain insight into their process, ask questions, and help shape the future of our physical properties. If you are passionate about the future of our church and the surrounding community, we encourage you to attend and be part of this important conversation.

Childcare and dinner will be provided for children from infants through 5th grade. If you are unable to attend in person, a virtual option is available—please indicate your preference when registering.

We want to emphasize the importance of registering early as we want to have as accurate of a count as possible in order to be good stewards of our resources, though, of course, walk-ups will be welcome. Doors open at 5:45 PM. Registration can be found on Church Center or in the weekly Pritchard Connect.

We Express Our Love and Sympathy to...

James Fisher and family in the passing of his brother, Bobby Joe Fisher.

Women's Beach Retreat

All women are invited to join us at Oak Island for a rejuvenating experience filled with rest and relaxation October 24-26. Only 3 spots remaining! Registration can be found on Church Center or in the weekly Pritchard Connect.

welcome

To Our New Members!

Derrick Bennett
James and Ashley Murphy

Staff Anniversaries

This month, we're celebrating Matt Higgins and Daniel Sibrian. Matt serves as our Kitchen and Facilities Manager. He came aboard October 9, 2023. He provides nutritious meals for our CDC children and for various churchwide events.

Daniel joined our team October 24, 2024 as our Worship Leader. He leads us each Sunday into a spiritual musical experience creating an atmosphere where we can connect with God. His wife, Madison, also shares her beautiful gifted voice alongside him.

Happy Anniversary guys! We love and appreciate you!

"We give thanks to God always for you...."
1 Thessalonians 1:2



Amy Thomaston	10/1	Madison Walker	10/13
Debbie Wall	10/1	Peggy York	10/16
Elaine Rogers	10/2	Don Taft	10/17
Nichole Grady	10/2	Joan Laughter	10/17
Craig Poole	10/3	Charles Hoyle, Sr.	10/18
Jackson Rogers	10/3	Joseph Stallings	10/22
Adler Beatty	10/4	Richard Wallace	10/22
Becky Black	10/4	Melanie Harper	10/23
Jill McCarn	10/4	Tiffany Elder	10/23
Kevin Hennessey	10/5	Linda McBride	10/24
Mac McCormick	10/5	Ula Hursey	10/27
Matt Hiers	10/8	Donna McDuffie	10/28
Sienna Thomas	10/8	Matt Walker	10/28
Rachel Mazingo	10/9	Taylor Rogers	10/28
Carla Hopper	10/10	Vernon Sykes	10/28
Larry Laughter	10/10	Jewel Givens	10/30
Lincoln Rogers	10/11	Riley Self	10/30
Marion Harris	10/12	Ritchie West	10/30
Dakota Elder	10/13	Russ Allen	10/30
Kendra Elder	10/13	Donna Heiser	10/31



Wednesday, October 1

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
10:00am-4:00pm—Thrift Store open
6:30pm-9:00pm—Pickleball
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 2

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am—Sunago Singers
6:00pm—Pritchard Kids Mom's Night Out/Dinner

Friday, October 3

Saturday, October 4

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, October 5...COMMUNION

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
11:00am—Tailgate Outreach
11:30am—New to Pritchard?
11:45am-12:15pm—Youth Choir

Monday, October 6

Tuesday, October 7

10:30am—Women on Mission
12:00pm-3:00pm—Pickleball
2:00pm—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)

Wednesday, October 8

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
11:00am—Sweet Spirits
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm-9:00pm—Pickleball

Thursday, October 9

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am—Sunago Singers

Friday, October 10

8:00am—More Than Conquerors Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, October 11

9:30am-11:30am—WMU Leadership Meeting
3:00pm-6:00pm—Fall Festival
5:00pm-7:00pm—Youth Group Monthly Gathering

Sunday, October 12

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
11:00am—Tailgate Outreach
11:30am—New to Pritchard?
11:30am—Personnel Meeting
11:45am-12:15pm—Youth Choir
5:00pm-7:00pm—All on the Table

Monday, October 13

6:30pm-7:45pm—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, October 14

10:00am—See 'n Sew
12:00pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Wednesday, October 15

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
10:00am-4:00pm—Thrift Store open
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm-9:00pm—Pickleball

Thursday, October 16

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am—Sunago Singers
6:00pm—Stewardship Meeting
7:30pm—Night of Worship

Friday, October 17

Saturday, October 18

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, October 19

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
11:30am—New to Pritchard?
11:45am-12:15pm—Youth Choir

Monday, October 20

Tuesday, October 21

12:00pm—Endowment Meeting
12:00pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Wednesday, October 22

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
6:00pm—Facilities Forward: Discovery Dinner
6:30pm-9:00pm—Pickleball

Thursday, October 23

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am—Sunago Singers

Friday, October 24

Women's Weekend Beach Retreat
Youth Group Retreat Weekend

Saturday, October 25

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, October 26

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
11:00am—Tailgate Outreach
11:30am—Church Council
11:30am—New to Pritchard?
11:45am-12:15pm—Youth Choir

Monday, October 27

Tuesday, October 28

10:00am-12:00pm—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance
12:00pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Wednesday, October 29

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
8:30am—Women's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm-9:00pm—Pickleball

Thursday, October 30

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am—Sunago Singers

Friday, October 31...HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

